



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday March 10, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety traffic stop results in seizure of over a half million dollars in suspected drug cash

On March 6, 2008, an officer with the Arizona Department of Public Safety Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau stopped a commercial truck south of Interstate 10 in Phoenix. After getting consent to search the vehicle, officers located \$553,950 concealed in the back wall of the sleeper berth. The driver was released after disclaiming all knowledge of the money, and the cash was seized as evidence.

“On a monthly basis we take enormous amounts of drug cash off the highways, however, it’s rare that we see over a half million dollars in just one traffic stop. It’s yet another sign of the desperation by the drug syndicates to get their money and product across state lines,” said DPS Director Roger Vanderpool.

photos of the cash are available

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona’s highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona’s largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona’s 15 counties.

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